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EGYPT-FRANCE: IN HIS SEARCH FOR A WAY OUT OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI IMPASSE, NASIR IS PRIVATELY ENCOURAGING STEPS TOWARD A POLITICAL SOLUTION THAT HE CAN SOMEHOW PICTURE AS BEING FORCED ON HIM BY THE GREAT POWERS.

RECENT EGYPTIAN-FRENCH TALKS IN PARIS HAVE CONVINCED THE FRENCH THAT EGYPT REALLY WANTS A RAPID POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER MAHMUD FAWZI TOLD FRENCH OFFICIALS THAT EGYPT IS PREPARED TO GO CONSIDERABLY FURTHER THAN IT HAS PREVIOUSLY INDICATED TOWARD ACHIEVING SUCH A SETTLEMENT.

CAIRO HAS APPARENTLY NOT YET DECIDED HOW MUCH IT CAN GIVE, HOWEVER. THE FRENCH RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT NASIR MAY WELL AVOID A DECISION UNTIL PRESENTED WITH RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A FINAL SETTLEMENT, ENDORSED BY THE FOUR POWERS AND THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL, SO THAT HE CAN SAY HE HAS NO CHOICE IN THE MATTER. FAWZI ALSO CLAIMED THAT DISCONTENT AND SUPPORT FOR ARAB GUERRILLAS WERE SO STRONG IN EGYPT THAT THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT CAN LAST NO MORE THAN "SEVERAL MONTHS" UNLESS PROGRESS IS MADE TOWARD SETTLING THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT.

FAWZI'S VISIT TO PARIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DESIGNED IN PART TO ENCOURAGE FRANCE TO SPEED UP THE FOUR-POWER DISCUSSIONS ON THE MIDDLE EAST IN THE HOPE THAT RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTABLE TO THE ARABS WOULD EMERGE. NASIR IS UNDER INCREASING PRESSURE TO ACHIEVE SOME MOVEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST IMPASSE, BUT FAWZI'S DESCRIPTION OF THE SITUATION IN EGYPT MAY BE SOMEWHAT OVERDRAWN.

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